

POLREP 0112th Street Dump Site

(aka 12th Street Landfill)  
near 12th Street Ramp to I-495  
Wilmington, New Castle Co., DE 19802

ATTN: RRC

I. SITUATION (as of 3 September 99)  
EVENT: CERCLA Removal Assessment

A. EPA Removal Branch received a request from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to assist with an assessment of several deteriorated drums and potentially contaminated soil along the bank of the Brandywine River near 12th Street in Wilmington, Delaware. The OSC, DNREC, and an official of the City of Wilmington met at the location, found the drum and disposal area and initiated a CERCLA Removal Assessment on 7 July 1999.

B. Due to the existence of several potentially affected properties and an active railroad, the OSC concurred with DNREC and determined that a property survey would also be necessary.

C. The disposal location is primarily on property owned by the City of Wilmington. Adjacent and potentially affected properties include those owned by the State of Delaware, the Brandywine Industrial Complex, Asset Recovery Services, and the Norfolk & Southern Railroad. The OSC received verbal permission to access all properties, written permission to access the City of Wilmington property and executed a Right-of-Entry Agreement with the Railroad by August 23, 1999, after verifying ownership through a deed search. Access to parcels required coordination with the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Norfolk and Southern Railroad.

D. Assessment and sampling activities were initiated August 25, 1999. EPA contractors facilitated access to and a survey of overgrown areas by flattening tall grass and removing small trees. Samples of surface soil and river bottom sediment were collected to determine if surface soils posed a threat to trespassers and the River environment. Samples of drum residues were also collected. EPA also excavated several test pits to characterize subsurface conditions. Drum remains and elevated organic vapor readings (e.g., 2000 ppm) were detected in two test pits. All test pits contained remains of rubber hoses. An ash or slag-like material was found in two test pits. Water in one test pit was also collected. Straw was placed on disturbed areas to minimize erosion until grass re-grew in disturbed areas.

E. Survey activities continued periodically through September 3, 1999, when the assessment activities were completed.

AR100016

F. All samples were packaged and sent to multiple laboratories for analysis for metal and organic contaminants.

## II. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. The OSC will await receipt of analytical data, expected within 30 days, to determine if response actions are necessary at this Site. The remote location of the debris and waste area coupled with the potential damage associated with hasty excavation of drums from the riverbank leads the OSC to determine that stabilization or removal actions need to consider the environmental data.

B. The OSC will coordinate with DNREC, DELDOT, and the City of Wilmington and discuss analytical results with these organizations above receipt.

---

Michael Towle, OSC  
US EPA - Region III  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

AR100017